

***Optics Express* Review Criteria**

Technical Scope of Journal

Optics Express provides rapid publication of articles that emphasize scientific and technology innovations in all aspects of optics and photonics. Papers that potentially fall outside the scope of the journal include those where optics, although perhaps present, is not central to the theme of the article. Possible questions to ask for determining scope include:

- Is the *innovation* of the paper *strongly connected* to optics and photonics, where we interpret “optics” to mean involving light or other forms of electromagnetic radiation?
- Would I search for this topic in *Optics Express*, or would I start with other journals?
- Has this topic traditionally had a home in *Optics Express* or other journals with similar scope?
- Are the *important* bibliographic references connected to the optics literature?

Although rapid publication is important, *Optics Express* is not a letters journal, and the need for urgent dissemination of results is not a requirement for acceptance.

Rating Options: Very high, Moderately high, Moderately low, Outside the scope

Novelty and Impact

Optics Express emphasizes both novelty and impact in its publications. In addition to describing new work, novel papers must contain new *information* that has the potential to significantly impact the field of optics. Reviewers are asked to read the authors’ impact and novelty statement to assess this aspect of the paper. Possible questions to address include:

- Did you learn anything new or surprising from reading the paper?
- Is the novelty described in the “Author novelty and impact statement” significant compared to past work or simply incremental? (Note: Incremental work is likely to be rejected.)
- Does the paper itself present novel results, enable new applications, solve important problems, or provide new theoretical insight?
- How likely is this paper to make a major impact on future research?

Rating Options: Very high, Moderately high, Moderately low, Very low

Technical Content

Possible questions to address include:

- Is the paper free from technical errors?
- Are the conclusions supported by the data presented?
- Is the work placed in proper context?
- Is prior or related work adequately referenced?

Rating Options: Very high, Moderately high, Moderately low, Very low

Presentation Quality

Possible question to address include:

- Does the title clearly define the subject matter and is it free from poorly defined acronyms?
- Does the abstract serve as a stand-alone document that succinctly describes both the procedures and conclusions? Note: an abstract should *not* be an introduction.
- Does the article present the subject in a way that an informed reader can understand the content?
- Are the figures, tables, captions, and multimedia content understandable, readable, and useful?
- Is the quality of English appropriate for an archival journal?

Rating Options: Very high, Moderately high, Moderately low, Very low

Appropriateness of Supplementary Material

Visualizations (videos, 2D images, 3D images), tabular data, or citations to datasets in external repositories should be integral to understanding the article and support the results reported. Custom code and design files are acceptable to include as additional information, which is helpful to readers. A [Supplemental Document](#) (PDF) may provide expanded descriptions of materials and methods.

- Is the supplementary material openly accessible, understandable, and readable?
- Does the supplementary material contribute to presentation of the results?
- If a Supplemental Document (PDF) is included, is the information useful and worthwhile for the reader?
- Is the manuscript coherent without the supplemental PDF file?

Rating Options: High, Moderate, Low, Not Applicable

Manuscripts judged by reviewers as moderately low or very low in the first three criteria (technical scope, novelty and impact, and technical content) will generally not be accepted for publication in *Optics Express*. Manuscripts requiring significant revision will be rejected and will require resubmission as a new manuscript.